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## Rep. Kurtz Supports Passage of the Pre-Existing Condition Guaranteed Coverage Act

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**Madison** – Rep. Tony Kurtz (R-Wonewoc) joined a bi-partisan group of assembly members in the passage of <u>Assembly Bill 1</u>, the Pre-Existing Condition Guaranteed Coverage Act Tuesday night. Kurtz co-sponsored the bill, voted for it as a member of the Assembly Committee on Health, and supported it again on the floor of the Assembly.

The legislation would make Wisconsin a leader in the Midwest on pre-existing condition coverage and one of only five states to ensure all three elements of protection. After negotiating with Governor Evers, the bill was amended to prohibit annual or lifetime caps on coverage.

With approximately one out of six people in Wisconsin diagnosed with a pre-existing condition, this bill will guarantee access to coverage regardless of changes that may happen at the federal level.

In appealing to his colleagues to support AB 1, Kurtz said, "This is not a game, this is not a smokescreen, this is people's lives." He added, "Just think of the stress they're going to have if they wake up one morning and realize the ACA is gone and their pre-existing condition is now not covered."

The bill was adopted with bi-partisan support on a vote of 76-19.

The Pre-Existing Condition Guaranteed Coverage Act offers protections through three provisions. It prohibits those with a pre-existing condition from being denied a policy, being denied services required to treat a condition, and prevents higher premiums based on a person's heath status.

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